

### REMARKS

Please enter this preliminary amendment before examining the above-referenced case. Claims 1-12 have been cancelled. Claim 13 is pending. Claims 14-23 have been added.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.607(c), Applicants have presented claims herein which correspond substantially to certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,457,547, issued to Novitschitsch. Claim 14 presented herein corresponds to claim 1 of the '547 patent. Claim 15 presented herein corresponds to claim 2 of the '547 patent. Claim 16 presented herein corresponds to claim 3 of the '547 patent. Claim 17 presented herein corresponds to claim 4 of the '547 patent. Claim 18 presented herein corresponds to claim 5 of the '547 patent. Claim 19 presented herein corresponds to claim 6 of the '547 patent. Claim 20 presented herein corresponds to claim 7 of the '547 patent. Claims 21 and 22 presented herein correspond to claim 9 of the '547 patent. Claim 23 presented herein and claim 13 originally presented correspond to claim 10 of the '547 patent.

Applicants are presently investigating whether an interference between the present application and the '547 patent is appropriate. Applicants will submit the information referenced in 37 C.F.R. § 1.607(a) in due course, if appropriate.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this preliminary amendment, the undersigned attorney can be reached at (312) 321-4283 to resolve any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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